



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rain Garden To Be Installed  
*Storm water uses landscaping to manage runoff issues*

FAIRMONT, WV- May 8, 2015- The City of Fairmont is bringing some enjoyable yet functional landscaping to Downtown Fairmont. A rain garden will be installed on Jefferson Street on the vacant lot that was formerly Lupos Hotdogs. The lot will also be paved to include a few parking spaces to be used by City and County vehicles. This rain garden will be very visually appealing, but also serves the purpose of managing rain runoff from the lot.

This is the first project of its kind, but the hope is to install more in different areas of the city. "This is the first time we are doing something like this, so it is serving as our pilot program and we are hoping that a new rain garden can be installed every year moving forward," said Wet Weather Program Manager Mike Bragg. Future locations will be in areas where runoff is an issue on city property.

The intent of the rain garden is to act as an alternative and environmentally sensitive method of controlling and managing storm water for the site. Rain gardens effectively diminish or eliminate the amount of storm water that leaves the site by controlling the direction and velocity of the flow into areas designed to detain and or retain the water. This lessens the volume of water that would potentially contribute to storm system overload and flooding. "We are also hoping to educate residents about rain gardens and how they not only look good, but they can also help," said Bragg.

Tyler Campbell with Biafore Landscape Development developed the rain garden/storm water management system using a combination of mechanical and vegetative means. "This rain garden not only has a functional value of detaining/retaining storm water on site, but also provides a vegetative green space within the parking and downtown," said Campbell.

The project is a joint effort between the storm water and general funds within the City's budget.

Photos of renderings attached.

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